Installation of **solar energy** in **remote areas in Vidarbha**

2883. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider installation of solar energy in remote areas like tribal district of Yavatmal in Vidarbha as it is environmental friendly, involving minimum recurring costs for operation and maintenance and also does not need water;

(b) if so, whether connectivity of such smaller plants with the grid would not only help in stabilizing the transmission system but also contribute towards availability of more power for consumers and micro industries apart from generating direct and indirect employment in the area; and

(c) what is the perspective planning in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing several programmes to support installation of solar energy devices such as solar lighting, water pumping and small power generation systems, in different parts of the country, including the remote and tribal areas. In addition, the Ministry is also implementing a programme for electrification of those remote unelectrified census villages and unelectrified hamlets, where grid extension is either not feasible or not cost effective or which are not covered under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, through renewable energy including solar energy. The list of such villages in provided by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). Projects are sanctioned, on case to case basis, to the implementing agencies on the basis of proposals submitted by them. No remote villages in the Yavatmal district of Maharashtra has so far been identified by REC for electrification through renewable energy.

Rural electrification in Chhattisgarh

t2884. SHRI SHREEGOPAL WAS: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received in respect of rural electrification, wind and solar hybrid system and propagation thereof in Chhattisgarh and how many proposals are pending; and

(b) the status of each of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Under the Remote Village Electrification Programme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, proposals for electrification through solar energy of 79 villages, identified by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) as remote, were received during the last three years. These have been approved for financial support under the Programme. No further proposal from the state for any other REC identified remote village is pending.

Further, proposals for installation of wind solar hybrid systems of 2.7kW each in 139 tribal hostels in Jaspur and Sarguja districts in Chhattisgarh were received and sanctioned during 2007-08. No other proposal for these systems is pending with the Ministry.

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.